



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

PO Box 47990 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7990

January 18, 2006

The Honorable Eileen Cody
House Health Care Committee Chair
Washington State House of Representatives
John L O'Brien Building
Post Office Box 40600
Olympia, Washington 98504-0600

Dear Representative Cody:

I am writing as chair of the Washington State Board of Health to support House Bill 2570. This bill, which is scheduled to be heard before your committee tomorrow, would prohibit the distribution of tobacco products as free samples. The Board recognizes the use of tobacco products in all forms as a major contributor to morbidity and mortality. Therefore, it supports the bill's goal of restricting activities that introduce people to this addictive substance.

This bill would support efforts of the Department of Health and local health agencies to especially discourage young people from developing a tobacco habit. The proposal is good health policy.

Thank you for your interest in this important public health issue.

Sincerely,

Kim Marie Thorburn, MD, MPH
Chair, Washington State Board of Health

cc: The Honorable Dawn Morrell
House Health Care Committee Members
Washington State Board of Health Members
Ms. Christina Hulet, Governor's Executive Policy Office
Mr. Brian Peyton, Department of Health
Mr. Craig McLaughlin, Washington State Board of Health